

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS

PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A method for a controlling device to establish a communication means for an interfacing device, comprising the following steps:

5 realizing a location of the interfacing device;

updating in a first database the location of the interfacing device;

querying the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer of the interfacing device;

updating in the first database the manufacturer of the interfacing device, if the

10 querying for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful;

querying the interfacing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device, for the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful;

15 updating in the first database the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the query for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is successful;

establishing a communication means for the interfacing device according to information stored in the first database.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful and the querying of the

interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according an interfacing communication means that is particular to all devices manufactured by the manufacturer of the interfacing device.

5           3.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according an interfacing communication means that is common to all devices.

10           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according an interfacing communication means that is common to at least one manufacturer of interfacing devices.

15           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is unsuccessful and the querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is unsuccessful, then the step of establishing a communication means is according an interfacing communication means that is common to at least one known model of the identified  
20 manufacturer of the interfacing device.

6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of querying the interfacing device for the identity of the model of the interfacing device utilizes the identity of the manufacturer of

the interfacing device to query the interfacing device with model identification codes that are particular to the manufacturer of the interfacing device.

7. The method of claim 1, comprising a further step of querying the interfacing device for the unique identification of the interfacing device prior to the step of querying the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the unique identification of the interfacing device is a unique sequence of data designated to the interfacing device by the manufacturer of the interfacing device.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of updating in the first database the location of the interfacing device includes updating the unique identification of the interfacing device in the first database.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the interfacing device is queried using Simple Network Management Protocol.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the interfacing device is accomplished by automatically detecting that the interfacing device is electrically coupled to the controlling device.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of realizing the location of the interfacing device is accomplished by an input by a user.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the controlling device and the interfacing device are networked computer devices coupled to one another by a network.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of realizing the location of the

interfacing device is accomplished by the controlling device detecting that the network location of the interfacing device has changed.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the location of the interfacing device is a network location of the interfacing device on the network.

5 16. The method of claim 13, wherein the network location of the interfacing device is an internet address.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the first database can be accessed by an interface that is independent of the database file format.

10 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first database complies with the ODBC standard.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the first database is duplicated on a second database.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the second database is updated with at least a portion of the first database by utilizing transfer of data through email.

15 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the transfer of data through email utilizes a Simple Mail Transfer Communication means.

22. A controlling device arranged to:

realize the location of an interfacing device;

update in a database the location of the interfacing device;

20 query the interfacing device for an identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing

device;

update in the database the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device, if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device;

query the interfacing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer, for an identity  
5 of the model of the interfacing device if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device;

update in the database the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the controlling device is able to obtain the identity of the model of the interfacing device;

establish a communication means for the interfacing device according to information  
10 stored in the database.

23. A controlling device comprising:

a means for realizing the location of an interfacing device;

a means for updating in a database the location of the interfacing device;

a means for querying the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the  
15 interfacing device;

a means for updating in the database the manufacturer of the interfacing device, if the querying for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful;

a means for querying the interfacing device, utilizing the identity of the manufacturer  
of the interfacing device, for the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the  
20 querying of the interfacing device for the identity of the manufacturer of the interfacing device is successful;

a means for updating in the database the identity of the model of the interfacing device, if the query for the identity of the model of the interfacing device is successful;

a means for establishing a communication means for the interfacing device according to information stored in the database.

- 5      24.    A method for a controlling device to establish a communication means for an interfacing device, comprising the following steps:

          querying the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer and the identity of the model of the interfacing device;

- establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication  
10      means that is common to all interfacing devices if the querying of the interfacing device did not identify either the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device;

- establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing device of the manufacturer of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified the manufacturer of the interfacing device  
15      and the querying of the interfacing device did not identify the model of the interfacing device;  
          and

- establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified both the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device.

- 20      25.    A controlling device arranged to:

          query the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer and the identity of the

model of the interfacing device;

establish a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing devices if the query of the interfacing device does not identify either the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device;

5            establish a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing device of the manufacturer of the interfacing device if the query of the interfacing device identifies the manufacturer of the interfacing device and the querying of the interfacing device does not identify the model of the interfacing device; and

10           establish a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the interfacing device if the query of the interfacing device identifies both the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device.

26.    A controlling device comprising:

15           a means for querying the interfacing device for an identity of a manufacturer and the identity of the model of the interfacing device;

a means for establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing devices if the querying of the interfacing device did not identify either the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device;

20           a means for establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is common to all interfacing device of the manufacturer of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified the manufacturer of the

interfacing device and the querying of the interfacing device did not identify the model of the interfacing device; and

a means for establishing a communication means for the interfacing device using a communication means that is particular to the model of the interfacing device if the querying of the interfacing device identified both the manufacturer and the model of the interfacing device.

40068861-021102